

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

Library

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1965.

Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCall
V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors

C.V. Muggeridge, M.A.P.H.I.
H.G. Gaskell, M.A.P.H.I.
J.A. Daynes, M.A.P.H.I.
T.A.J. Fowler, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to Medical Officer

Miss Y. Michael, M.A.

Committees concerned with matters of Public Health

(a) Public Health	15 members
(b) Housing	15 members
(c) Works	15 members

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

COUNTY OF SOMERSET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965.

To: The Chard Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1965.

There was little infectious disease reported to me during the year. The Birth Rate was down and the Death Rate up on 1964.

In an effort to produce the report earlier in the year I have confined the text and tables to those services for which the Council themselves are responsible. The services provided by the Local Health Authority are already reported by the County Medical Officer in his Annual Report and were only included in my previous reports for the convenience of Members.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A. M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

COUNTY OF SOMERSET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DEC. 1925.

To: The Chard Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1925.

There was little infectious disease reported to me during the year. The birth rate was down and the Death Rate up on 1924.

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Mr. Chairman and Council Members,
Your obedient Servant,

A. M. McCall.

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area:

Population The estimated mid-year population for 1965 was 12,480, slightly up on last year's figure. This gives a population density of 0.2 per acre. The rateable value was £291,125 and the product of a penny rate was £1,015.

Birth Rate The Corrected Birth Rate for 1965 was 16.81 per thousand live births which is below the national figure of 18.1. There were 9 illegitimate births, giving a rate of 5.2% of total live births.

Death Rate The Corrected Death Rate for the year was 11.5, identical with the national figure for the same period. Details of deaths are given in Appendix A, Table 3.

Once again heart disease was the greatest killer, accounting for 54 deaths, 31 of whom died from coronary thrombosis. Both figures are a considerable increase on last year. Vascular lesions of the nervous system also showed a considerable increase on 1964 and 38 died from this cause. Of the 38 deaths from cancer, five males died from cancer of the lung. There were again three deaths from suicide.

Maternal Mortality There were no maternal deaths in 1965.

Stillbirths There were three stillbirths which gives a rate of 11.6 per thousand live and stillbirths.

Infant Mortality One infant death occurred during 1965 and was due to prematurity, the immediate cause of death being an intercranial haemorrhage.

Social Conditions There was little change in the general condition of the residents of the Rural District during the year as compared with recent years.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area:

The general health services are provided and administered by the local health authority, the County Council.

No substantial change in these services occurred during 1965. They continued to function satisfactorily and were well supported.

SECTION C.

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases:

Measles accounted for the majority of infectious diseases notified. They occurred mainly in the late spring and early autumn.

Details of all notifications are shown in Appendix C, Table 1.

Routine immunisation of children against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continued to be given throughout the year by general practitioners and clinic medical officers, using Trivax vaccine.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was also given as a routine measure, using oral vaccine.

Smallpox vaccination was mainly carried out by general practitioners but is available in some clinics.

I carried out my B.C.G. vaccination programme against tuberculosis in February and March. This protection was offered to all children born in 1951 and to those who may have missed it in previous years. It is the intention to lower the age group of children to which this is offered in future.

The Home Safety Committee was active during 1965 and discussed various methods by which home accidents could be prevented. They obtained the co-operation of the South Western Electricity Board and the South Western Gas Board in the examination and servicing of appliances in the homes of old age pensioners, particularly those living alone and at the end of the year a register of this category of resident was being compiled in the various villages. A panel of speakers was drawn up and speakers were available to address various organisations on request. There was a growing demand for the speakers' services towards the end of the year.

SECTION D.

Environmental Health Services:

A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions: 1965 was generally wet and the summer, if it could be called that, was most disappointing. The total annual rainfall varied in different parts of the district between 35 - 42 inches. The recent average has been about 38 inches.

Water Supply: The Wessex Water Board are gradually improving the supplies in a number of villages where shortages have been experienced in the past. Improvements were completed at Hewish, Chaffcombe and Merriott during the year and apart from occasional disruption due to damage to mains, the pressures have generally improved.

I continued to receive reports on samples taken by the Board each month and details of these are shown in Appendix D, Table 1. It will be seen that some supplies are nearly always satisfactory whereas others are very liable to contamination and at the end of the year the Board were actively engaged in improving those where trouble usually occurred. In addition we ourselves took a number of samples of water from private supplies and in those cases which were found to be unsatisfactory the owners were contacted and advice given in an attempt to remedy the defects.

The Council considered the Ministry's Circular on the Fluoridation of Water Supplies 15/65. I emphasised paragraphs five and six which state 'In the Minister's view fluoridation is now an established and well proven public health measure, which confers benefits to dental health (and in consequence general health) greatly exceeding the cost of introducing it. He is convinced that it is completely safe. He hopes, therefore, that all local health authorities will now take steps to make arrangements for its introduction.'

Water Supply (Continued):

The Minister is aware that despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary, a minority continues to maintain that Fluoridation may have some harmful effects. He hopes that these unfounded fears will not lead any authority to deny the benefits of Fluoridation to the community it serves.'

In spite of this and my recommendation, the Council decided to reject the Minister's advice and have declared themselves opposed to the Fluoridation of water supplies. I think it is important that young parents in the Rural District whose children would be the first to benefit should know of this decision.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal: The following parishes have main drainage with efficient disposal systems :-

Broadway and Horton
Chaffcombe (part)
Chard Parish (Tatworth)
Donyatt
Hinton St. George
Ilton (part)
Lopen
Seavington St. Mary
Seavington St. Michael

Reconstruction work on the Tatworth sewage disposal works was completed during the year at a cost of approximately £40,000 and work was in progress on a new works for Combe St. Nicholas and Wadeford at the end of the year. The Council have proposals to either provide or improve the drainage systems in the following parishes :-

Dowlish Wake: A sewage disposal works and necessary sewers will be constructed at a cost of approximately £41,000.

Forton: Similar work is proposed at a cost of £20,000.

Merriott: A closed circuit television survey of the sewers has been made. This showed that the existing sewers are defective and will have to be replaced. A new disposal works will also be necessary and it is hoped this work will commence in 1967 at an approximate cost of £100,000.

Shepton Beauchamp: Reconstruction of the disposal works is planned for this village at a cost of £2,000.

Winsham: It is proposed to spend approximately £.5,000 on disposal works in this village.

Misterton: It is proposed to spend approximately £10,000 on disposal works in this village.

The Council arrange for cess pool emptying by contract, the charge being £1.0.0. per load. This represents a subsidy from the Rate Fund of 8/6d. per load.

Refuse Collection and Disposal: The Council, using two vehicles, now give a fortnightly collection to all parishes in the Rural District. In addition trade refuse is collected at a cost of £2. 15. Od. per load.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960: Details of caravan sites are given in Appendix D, Table 2. One site which had been giving rise to considerable trouble was closed down by the owner pending the result of his appeal for permission to re-develop it.

The gypsies provided our main difficulty. They were using the roadside verges in the Drift Road near Chard as a permanent site during the winter months. This was a contravention of Planning but the County Council refused to take action against them. The Rural District Council explored the possibility of providing a permanent site but met with considerable opposition from the residents living near any proposed site. However, this project has not been dropped and was still being pursued at the end of 1965. The gypsies were offered permanent housing which they refused to accept and the Committee and Council spent hours exploring a possible solution to the problem without success.

Public Conveniences: The Council continued to explore the possibilities of providing one or more conveniences in lay-bys on the Main A.303 and A.30 roads and it was finally decided to shelve the project until the results of an experiment in another Rural District were known.

Rodent Control: The Council employ one whole-time rodent operator. Apart from the routine test baiting and treatment of Council owned establishments he gave a contract service to private individuals. This is by far the most satisfactory method as it ensures regular inspection and treatment as necessary.

Nuisances: The Public Health Department dealt with a considerable number of nuisances which were reported to them during the year. Informal action was generally successful in securing abatement but occasionally Statutory action was necessary.

B. Factories Act.

Details of the inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspectors are shown in Appendix D, Table 3.

C. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Thirty-three premises have been registered under this Act and routine inspection of the premises continued throughout the year.

D. Housing: Sixteen houses were completed by the Council in 1965 and there were a further 65 built by private enterprise: 109 were in course of erection by private persons at the end of the year.

In December there were 198 applicants for re-housing, 29 being for old people's dwellings.

Appendix D, Table 4 gives all the details of the housing situation.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food:

Milk: There are two registered distributors and two registered dairy premises in the District. Routine sampling is carried out by the County Health Department.

As a result of this sampling the presence of brucella abortus on four farms was notified to me and immediate action was taken to see that all the milk from these farms was heat treated and the farmer made aware of the potential danger to himself and his staff.

Ice Cream: Sixty-eight premises were registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream. Forty-eight samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory: 46 were placed in Provisional Grade I, one in Grade II and one sample proved to be unsatisfactory. An immediate inspection of the premises was carried out and all ice cream was withdrawn. The suppliers were contacted and sufficient supplies obtained. The cause of the loss of condition of the ice cream was never discovered despite a very thorough investigation.

Meat: Six private slaughter houses are licensed in the area and 100% meat inspection was carried out by our staff. This is a very satisfactory achievement in view of the fact that the licensed slaughter houses are widely dispersed throughout the district. Concentration on this work has led to a fall in the amount of other public health work which can be done and the Committee were considering this problem at the end of the year.

Poultry Packing Establishments: There are two poultry packing establishments in the Rural District with an approximate kill of 1,800 per week. No inspection of these birds is carried out.

Food Premises: There are four premises registered for the preparation of meat products. One of these was found to be unsatisfactory and steps were being taken to withdraw the licence from the owner.

F. Clean Air Act, 1956.

No action was necessary under this Act during 1965.

G. Animal Boarding Establishments.

Three premises were licensed under this Act. Inspections were carried out by the Public Health staff.

APPENDIX A. TABLE 1.

Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1965	..	..	..	12,480
No. of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1965 according to the Rate Book		..	..	4,380
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£291,125
Sum represented by a penny rate		..	..	£1,115
Area	..	..	..	54,600 acres.

APPENDIX A. TABLE 2.

BIRTH RATE: 16.81		Comparability Factor 1.22	
		M.	F.
Live Births	Total	91	81
	Legitimate	88	75
	Illegitimate	3	6
Stillbirths	Total	-	3
	Legitimate	-	3
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	1	-
	Legitimate	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	Total	1	-
	Legitimate	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	Total	1	-
	Legitimate	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-

APPENDIX A. TABLE 3

DEATH RATE 11.5

Comparability Factor 0.84

	Sex	Total All ages.	Under 4 weeks	Under 1-yr.	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Syphilitic Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer of Stomach	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cancer of Lung	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer of Breast	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-
Cancer of Other Sites	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	5
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5
Diabetes	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	18	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	7	9
	F	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	15
Coronary Disease	M	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	10	2
Angina	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other Heart Disease	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6
Other Circulatory Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Pneumonia	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Nephritis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other Defined & Ill- Defined Diseases	M	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Suicide	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	96	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	5	16	34	34
	F	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12	19	42

APPENDIX C. TABLE 1.

Measles	...	...	...	180
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1

Analysis of Cases Notified

	Age										
	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65 65+Unknown
Measles	4	18	10	21	17	93	14	2	1		
Whooping Cough			1								
Scarlet Fever							1				
Erysipelas											1
Puerperal Pyrexia									1		

Tuberculosis

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
- 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25				1				
25 - 35				1				
35 - 45			1					
45 - 55								
55 - 65								
65 +	1	1				1		
<hr/>								
	1	1	1	2	-	1	-	-
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APPENDIX D. TABLE 1.

Water Supplies

Bacteriological Examinations

	<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Chaffcombe Springs	10	9	1
Dommett, surface springs	31	21	10
Hewish Spring	13	13	-
Pole Rue Bore	16	15	1
Roundham Springs	12	10	2
Tatworth, Shallow Well	25	17	8
Wayford, surface springs	10	8	2

APPENDIX D. TABLE 2.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
(a) No. of single caravans licensed ...	24	2
(b) No. of site licences issued in respect of more than one caravan ...	5	1
(c) Estimated maximum number of occupants resident during year ...	104	10
(d) No. of sites closed as a result of above Act ...	-	-
(e) Camping Sites - No. of unlicensed sites in use ...	-	1

APPENDIX D. TABLE 3.

Factories Acts 1937 - 1959

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority	3	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	42	29	-	-
(iii) Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	1020	-	-
	49	1051	-	-

Cases in which defects were found	Nil
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Outworkers

No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 10	149
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APPENDIX D. TABLE 4.

HOUSING

Action taken during year

1. No. of houses included in Clearance Areas for which Orders are still to be made	Nil
2. No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	Nil
3. No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	...	...	Nil
4. No. of houses demolished or closed (a) under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 (individual unfits)	...	...	22
(b) for other purposes (road improvements, etc.)	...	...	Nil
5. No. of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	...	...	Nil
6. No. of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 (capable of repair)	...	...	4
7. No. of houses made fit during year	...	...	10
8. No. of unfit houses occupied under Licence	...	...	2
9. Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Act, 1961)	...	...	Nil
10. Reconditioning of Condemned Houses - Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961)	...	...	Nil
11. Substitution of Closing Order for Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken	...	...	Nil
12. Housing Act, 1964. Any action taken during year	...	...	Nil
13. Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule)			
Certificates of Disrepair	(a) No. of applications received		Nil
	(b) Certificates issued	...	Nil

	<u>Houses erected during year</u>		<u>Houses in course of erection</u>		<u>Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings</u>	<u>Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one</u>
	For Slum Clearance	For other purposes	For Slum Clearance	For other purposes		
Local Authority	Nil	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise	Nil	65	Nil	109	1	1

No. of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April 1945 to 31st December, 1965

Housing Programme

By Local Authority

By Private Enterprise

568

520

20

(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied	(i) Prefabs .30.	(ii) Huts etc.	Nil.
(b) No. of houses found overcrowded			Nil.

Houses required

(i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition	...	...	-
(ii) To abate overcrowding	...	...	-
(iii) For other purposes	...	...	-
(iv) Applications for Council houses at the end of the year			
(a) Urgent bona fide cases	...	...	64
(b) Applications for Old People's Dwellings	29
(c) Others	105

Total applications	198
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(v)	Total No. of Council Houses sold during the year				2
	No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.64.	Gained from conversions and erected during 1965	Total (a)+(b)	Less houses demolished, closed etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.65.		
	<u>(a)</u>	<u>(b)</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	L.A.	P.E.
L.A.	805	16	821	2	819		
P.E.	3,581	68	3,649	7			3,642
Totals	4,386	84	4,470	9	819		3,642

OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

<u>Number erected to 31.12.65</u>		<u>Number in course of erection</u>	
With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid	With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid
90	35	Nil	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A. Discretionary No. of applications and houses dealt with by L.A. during year

1	2
Received	Approved
Applications	Applications
No. of Dwellings	No. of Dwellings
24	24
28	28

Note No. of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year 7

Average cost per dwelling approved during year ... £1,131

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority ... £10,600

B. Standard

1. No. of applications (a) Received	...	...	30
(b) Approved	...	...	30
2. No. of houses where standard amenities have been provided	...	...	23

Note No. of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year 20

N.B. Two of the above applications were later withdrawn.

APPENDIX D. TABLE 5.

Meat Inspection

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	1,318	241	1,615	7,307	2,860	-
No. inspected	1,318	241	1,615	7,307	2,860	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	24	31	62	13	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	84	151	15	819	313	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	-	-	12.05	11.39	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	53	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.15	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	577	-
(b) Cysticercosis	135	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	3,930	1,655	2,254	5,071	2,777	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	4,065	1,655	2,254	5,071	3,354	-

